

**OIL**  
 Price of a barrel of petroleum today:  
**US\$ 37.51**

**INSIDE TODAY**  
**U.S. NEWS**  
**SNOW CAL**



Traffic comes off an on ramp from a closed Interstate I-15 after blizzard conditions forced it closed in Cajon Pass on Monday Feb. 16, 2009. A winter storm that could be the largest of the season blanketed California with heavy rain and snow on Monday, forcing the closure of a major highway and the cancellation of the final round of a national golf tournament.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

**SPORTS NEWS**  
**DUSTIN THE WIN**



Dustin Johnson holds up his trophy on the 18th green of Pebble Beach golf links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. The tournament ended after 54 holes due to weather conditions.

See *Sports Today*

*At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa*

# Sweethearts' Dinner Dance raises funds for the handicapped



Palm Beach – It all began in 1987 when two pool boys had shells on a table for sale, with a sign saying “Proceeds will go to the handicapped.”

*Read Pages 4 & 5*



*The Westin Resort*

## Aruba's 9th annual Bridal & Social Events Show is coming

PALM BEACH - The Island's largest and most popular wedding and special events show, The Westin Aruba's 9th annual Bridal & Social Events Show, is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 22nd.

The event draws hundreds of locals every year, and promises to be bigger than ever in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom.

The fair attracts top vendors showcasing their products and services that are utilized while planning a wedding, Holy Communion, or any special event. Bakeries, jewelers, hair salons, travel agents, entertainment providers, and florists are just a few of the vendors that will be exhibiting during the fair. The fair runs from 11:00am to 6:00pm and is highlighted by a fashion show of wedding dresses, Holy Communion attire, and a variety of social occasion dresses.

*Continued on Page B3*

Premium Chicken Line  
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**CHICKEN HONEY MUSTARD**

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# Brand Champions of the Year announced!



**PALM BEACH** - Last week, a special luncheon in honor of Westin's top performers for 2008 was held in the resort's Cabaret Royal venue. The glamour of Carnival was elegantly brought to life in beautiful decorations and centerpieces fashioned for the



banquet, where all nominees enjoyed a plated lunch of lettuce wedges with bleu cheese, a duo of filet mignon and jumbo shrimp, and an artfully presented dessert created by the culinary team.

Those in attendance were the Service Legend winners for each month in 2008, as well as the winners of all four quarters of Manager and Supervisor of the quarter. It was a veritable who's who in top performers in both the front of the house and heart of the house operations at the resort.

Although the judges had an extremely difficult time choosing from among the cream of the crop, the following were announced as the winners, who each received a generous check and 5 extra vacation days: Brand Champion of the Year/Heart of House-Barbara Bird; Brand Champion of the Year/Front of House-Karen Cousins; Supervisor of the Year-



Nadime Olivares; and Manager of the Year-Paulien Provence. They are all pictured here with Acting General Manager Richard Roy and Executive Committee members. □



## Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

**ORANJESTAD** - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

**Q:** Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

**A:** How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



## DRIFTWOOD I DRIFTWOOD II FISHING CHARTERS

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 Herbert 593-0368 | Herbert Jr. 592-4040 | Office: 583-2515





## \$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

**Sundown Special**, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

\*Kids Eat Free \*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

**Monday** Seafood Sampler

**Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

**Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

**Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

**Friday** International Seafood Festival

**Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

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**Radisson**  
ARUBA  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

## Aruba's 9th annual Bridal & Social Events Show is coming



*Continued from Front Page*

Great door prizes will also be awarded.

The Westin Resort, Aruba wedding coordinators will be on-hand to book wedding packages for the public. In addition, the first person to book a wedding with the Westin Resort, Aruba will receive a \$1,000 discount on their special day.

Thus far, the following vendors and sponsors will participate in the Bridal & Social Events Show: Krozendijk's Flowershop, Fatum, Palais Hindu, High Performance, RBTT Bank, Gerrald Martes (freelance musician), H.K. Tailors, Checkpoint Color, Maiky Wernet Photography, Clamir Design CO, Ideal Rental. Koolman Flowers & Gifts, Diamante Jewelers, Ideal Rental, Elsa's Flowers & Art, Intermezzo Day Spa, Manchito's, Metropolis, DisneyRecreacion, Unique Engravings, Tango Tours, Aruba Trading Company, MonChique Clothing Design, Cake Out by Chris, Elite Productions, Tropical Bottling Company, Flora Market, The Jungle, Magic 96.5 FM., Canal 90 FM, Cool FM, Ruben Garcia, Bon Dia Aruba, and Interprint.

For more information please contact: Ms. Inge van Roon or Ms. Jancis Tromp at Ph.: 526.4450 or 526.4445.

Pictured here are images



from last year's show, as well as some of the beautiful event venues at The Westin Resort, Aruba. □







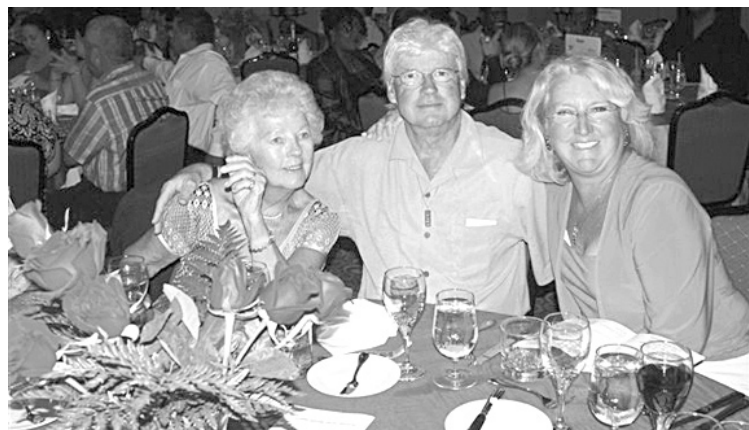
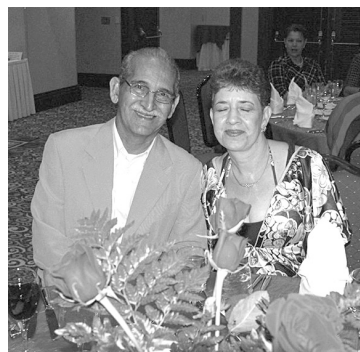
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*At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa*

## Sweethearts' Dinner Dance raises funds for the handicapped



Palm Beach – It all began in 1987 when two pool boys had shells on a table for sale, with a sign saying "Proceeds will go to the handicapped."

This became the seed of an idea that led four members off the Aruba Beach Club to form an organization supported by their friends, called Friends of the Handicapped, with the goal of helping the disadvantaged on the island.

Over the years FOH had raised and distributed over US\$1,000,000.00 to various organizations caring for the socially, physically and mentally handicapped residents of Aruba, with 100% of the proceeds given back each year at the end of the winter season, as FOH members head back to their homes in North America after wintering here at the Aruba Beach Club, Casa del Mar & Costa Linda.

Their fund raising events include a Superbowl Party, a Sweethearts' Ball and weekly collections at the Sunday Holy Mass services at Casa del Mar.

In 2008, 15 organizations



received donations totaling Awg 77.000.

Among recipients were: Mi Por, an organization of mothers with handicapped infants;



Foster Home Imeldahof; the Edmund Harms Hospice Foundation; the hearing-impaired Funari school & FEPO; Fundacion Respeta Mi



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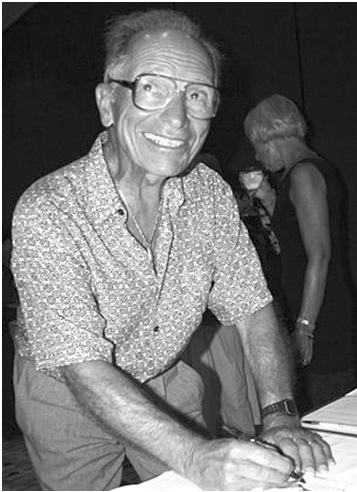
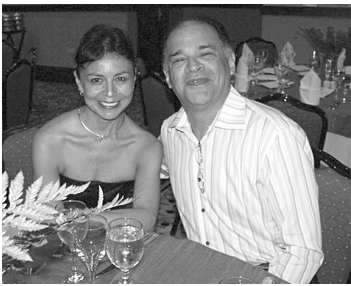
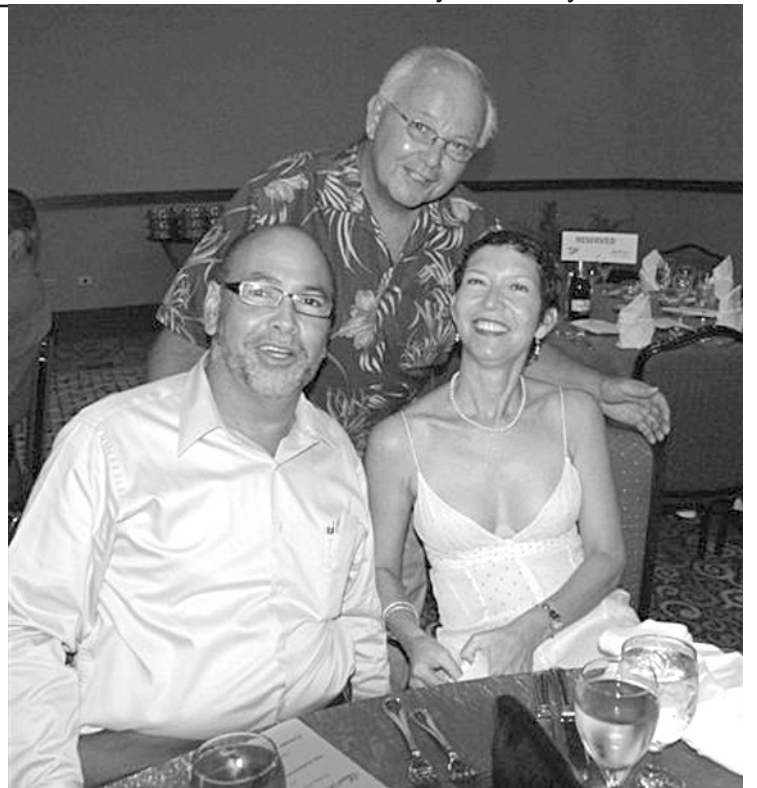
which guards against child abuse; Ambiente Nobo, sister Philothea's home for the handicapped; Ambiente Feliz & AVA, catering to special-need kids; Centro Kibrahacha for the elderly; Bibito Pin, a school for children with disabilities; Fundacion Cas Marie, dedicated to those suffering from dementia; the Clown Doctors who visit the

elderly and also kids in the hospital's children's ward; the Red Cross dedicated to disaster first response and crisis management; and Fundacion Pa Nos Muchana whose name indicates care for children.

Members of the board of directors worked hard to sell tickets for the 2009 fund raising drive and create an

unforgettable event, on the eve of Valentine's day, featuring great food, dance music, red roses, gifts, a silent auction and surprises, they are President Art Stark and his energetic board members Steve Wild, Philip Solomon, Maryann La Carruba, Anoushka Maduro, Pauline Daley, Alma Stark, David Ulmschneider, Sal La Carruba, Linda Todman and volunteers Jean and Huguette Vatiquette.

Thank you generous sponsors, Noble Jewelers, Playa Linda beach Resort, Casa del Mar Aruba Beach Club, Kenro Jewelers, Kay's Fine Jewelry, Gemani Jewelers, Westin Aruba Resort, Trac Car Rental and Little Switzerland. □



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# The new tourism market is becoming more segmented

Across the Caribbean, governments and the tourism industry are developing new strategies and initiatives aimed at trying to offset the fall in visitor arrivals that most nations expect from April onwards as a consequence of the global economic crisis.

As nothing else before has done, the recession has caused a much needed and long overdue recognition of the importance of an industry that over the last two decades has come to dominate almost all Caribbean economies and create important linkages with local manufacturing, services and agriculture.

Recently the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) made clear the potential threat that the recession posed to the industry in the region. It noted that about 75 per cent of tourists to the English-speaking Caribbean came from economies in recession; predicted that tourism in 2009 will only grow by a maximum of between zero and two per cent; and reported that tourism

has become the main source of income for all but the three Caribbean economies (Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad).

In response to the impending crisis in tourism, Jamaica, the OECS, Barbados and the Bahamas have introduced fiscal relief programs for the industry and have identified new forms of marketing support and other measures aimed at stimulating tourism growth.

But while these are welcome developments, in some cases they are short term and carry with them the implied or actual suggestion that within a year or so business will return to normal. Unfortunately, this may not be the case in most of the region's major markets, for reasons that go back to well before the present crisis began.

Since 2007 the international travel market has been undergoing a process of change as a consequence of which the Caribbean (with the notable exceptions of Jamaica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic) had begun to experience a

significant decline in tourism arrivals as competition grew from other global destinations. There are many reasons for this, but all in the end come down to whether the Caribbean's tourism offering is internationally competitive and if the specific mix of product, marketing, reputation and facilities in individual nations, reflect the aspirations of an increasingly diversified international travel market.

Put another way, it is very easy for regional destinations to continue doing the same thing: seeing vacations in the Caribbean as only being about sun and sand; building more rooms; continuing to focus on all-inclusives, condominiums and attracting global brands; and relying on traditional feeder markets, without recognizing that the tourism market is changing. The new tourism market is becoming more segmented and subject to clients changing aspirations about themselves, their lifestyles and where and how they wish to vacation.

This is not to say that the region's traditional market for beach vacations will disappear. Rather it is to ask the question how the region might extend its industry in ways that are new, and to note the need to add value to the existing product through facilities and attractions that encourage more higher end visitors.

Most studies on future trends in tourism identify radically changing approaches on the part of these visitors. They tend to divide visitor thinking by age and wealth.

They suggest there will be time-rich individuals largely between 50 and 70 years of

age on good pensions who can travel without constraint. These are visitors who are looking to broaden their experience, knowledge and happiness through understanding more about where they visit and more about themselves through what they experience or through more formal learning.

In effect they are not tourists they are travelers.

They want to change the relationship between host and guest and seek genuine rather than staged experiences. They want a destination to offer opportunities to be able to extend themselves through creative pursuits and educational, spiritual or religious activity in order to mark a way point in their life. By default this rapidly growing segment of the market required tailor-made vacations and much more in the way of alternative facilities to those offered by traditional beach hotels, tour operators and cruise lines.

Such visitors contrast greatly with another category: those that are time-poor but relatively well off financially. This group will typically be in professional or skilled employment, be between twenty and forty and willing to spend money in a manner that will deliver an experience through a single purchase that requires a travel agent, tour operator or local company prepared to provide a complete, high quality services from arrival to departure.

Beyond this changing profile of visitors and their needs other changes are taking place in the international tourism market. Traditionally the region has

sourced the majority of its visitors from North America and Europe and to a much lesser extent the rest of the region. It has also placed an emphasis on returning friends and family. However, the new high growth markets for travel are non-traditional: the emerging economies of Brazil, China, India and Russia, while there is a slowly growing appetite for long-haul travel from the EU states of Eastern Europe.

The challenge is to find new ways to establish the region and individual destinations as brands in these markets and as being locations where visitors can do more than lie on the beach or play golf.

Jamaica has already proved that market diversification is possible.

It has enhanced its brand with much help from the international recognition of reggae and its sporting achievement. It is moving rapidly to develop a new product mix that includes a wide range of events; it is cultivating faith based tourism; has diversified its market so that it is seeking visitors from China, the far East and Latin America; is planning a school of hospitality using international expertise to improve training and service levels; and is exploring many other possibilities that will appeal to the new traveler.

This is the precise moment at which the industry across the region and government should be undertaking some soul searching about what it offers and looking at its shortcomings and identifying how it might take advantage of the global upturn when it occurs. □

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**THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION**



# Caribbean Students Create Posters to Save the Planet

Each year, the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) invites students from the Caribbean and Latin America to participate in the annual FCCA Foundation Children's Environmental Poster Competition. This year, 17 destinations throughout the Caribbean and Latin American region participated. One entry per category was selected as a winner for the best message that advocated the role each destination plays in preserving the environment. The winning students were announced on February 5, 2009. Nearly US\$27,000 in prizes and scholarships were awarded to students ages 16 and under and their schools. Winners included 12-year-old Huddoy Walters of Port Antonio Primary School from Port Antonio, Jamaica in the Junior Division (ages 12 and younger) and 13-year-old Laurane Pecome of College Cassient Sainte Claire from Fort de France, Martinique in the Senior Division (ages 13-16). Students were asked to create a poster that visually depicted at least three ways they believe could help protect the environment and promote environmental awareness in their country. The competition's purpose is to promote and stimulate environmental awareness among students and to effectively educate the younger generations on the importance of environmental protection. Each country submitted one poster in each age category to represent its finalists. Huddoy Walter's poster, "Preserving Our Island's Paradise," illustrates how we can reduce our impact on the environment. The poster depicts three ways: replanting of trees, recycling of waste materials and reducing air and water pollution. Laurane Pecome's poster, "I have a dream," promotes Martinique as a clean and ecological island. The poster's theme is inspired by Martin Luther King's famous speech, and is about a world thriving on harmony. The actions that are highlighted are garbage collection and sorting, recycling, water protection and the protection of endangered animal and plant species. The FCCA also congratulates

the second and third place winners in each division. Second place finalists were 11-year-old Kelsia Liburd from Nevis in the Junior Category and 15-year-old D'Dron Griffin from St. Kitts in the Senior Category. Third place winners were 12-year-old Josie Lee from Belize in the Junior Category

and 15-year-old Rohaan K. Allport from Dominica in the Senior Category. Second place winners in both categories will each receive US\$1,500 and third place winners will receive US\$1,000. The top winners, Huddoy and Laurane, will each receive an educational scholarship of US\$3,000.

The FCCA will also award the schools of the first, second, and third place winners in both categories the same amount received by their winning student in lieu of art supplies. The other finalists in each division will receive US\$200 to reward their participation and good work. □



## HAVANA Dance

*The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!*

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**HAVANA Dance** is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. Don't miss it!

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**Ticket Price: \$49 / Children under 12 pay \$25**  
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For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357  
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Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

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 Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm  
 For reservations call 523-6195  
 Located next to the Crystal Casino

**\$89**

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Boasting fine dark wood finishes throughout, a patrons table and a fantastic outdoor terrace, café Rembrandt is sure to give you that comfortable and convivial feel. The staff is a solid team with abundant experience, and they all share the love for hospitality. Café Rembrandt has the ambiance of a bar where you can spend an afternoon reading the paper,


while at the same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud. Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to “bitterballen” ( the original Dutch snack ) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down both inside and out for

a relaxed dinner. The focus is very much on the right balance between price and quality, ensuring you can eat and drink for local prices. You will discover that the service is quick, but never in a hurry, and most people will stay the entire night. We invite you to come and indulge in that unique atmosphere you will only find at Café Rembrandt.

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*More than just the best pizza on the island...*

## Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all “Casa Tua” meaning “Your Home” in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are

seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers in-

seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers in-



cluding shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at

the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Naf and his son Gregory are

always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



**Casa Tua Palm Beach**  
*open from 5pm to 11pm.*

**Casa Tua Downtown**  
*open from 11am to 11pm,  
Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.*

For more information or reservations please call below or ask your

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PASEO HERENCIA — Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall.

The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a



well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information  
and Reservations  
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# Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



**PALM BEACH** – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banters, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

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# No charges will be filed against Michael Phelps



No charges will be fired against American swim star Michael Phelps, pictured in 2008, from his being photographed with a pipe typically used to smoke marijuana, police announced Monday.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Bryan Bedder)

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AFP) – No charges will be filed against American swim star Michael Phelps from his being photographed with a pipe typically used to smoke marijuana, police announced on Monday.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said that after a full investigation into the November party at which Phelps was photographed, touching off a controversy that led to a three-month ban, there was not enough evidence to charge anyone.

“Having thoroughly investigated this matter, we do not believe we have enough evidence to prosecute anyone that was present at the November party,” Lott said.

Phelps, who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics six months ago, was shown holding a bong in a photograph published two weeks ago by a British newspaper, humiliating the superstar swimmer.

“I’m glad this matter is put to rest,” Phelps said in a statement. “But there are also some important lessons that I’ve learned. For me, it’s all about recognizing that I used bad judgment and it’s a mistake I won’t make again.”

Phelps, 24, apologized for inappropriate behavior and was suspended for three months by USA Swimming. He also lost a sponsorship deal with cereal maker Kelloggs but now hopes the matter is in his wake and a lesson to others.

“For young people especially -- be careful about the decisions you make. One bad decision can really hurt you and the people you care about,” Phelps said.

“I really appreciate the support my family and fans have shown me and now I will move forward and dive back into the pool, having put this whole thing behind me.”

Police confiscated the bong, whose owner reportedly tried to sell the now-infamous pipe for 100,000 dollars on eBay, and questioned people regarding the party after learning it was staged near the University of South Carolina.

But Lott said he could not prove Phelps smoked marijuana.

“We had a photo and him saying he was sorry for inappropriate behavior,” Lott said. “He never said, ‘I smoked marijuana.’ We didn’t have physical evidence.”

Lott had been criticized by some for seeking attention in going after Phelps but defended his inquiry as responsible law-enforcement given the situation.

“By ignoring the November incident, I would have been sending a message of tolerance and condoning the use of illegal drugs. I could not do that,” Lott said. “How can we teach our kids... not to do drugs, then look away when it’s an important person?”

“Michael Phelps and I agree that something positive needs to come from this incident and that is a message of not using drugs. My perspective is that the law pertains to everyone and our drug laws are to be enforced.” □



Actress Salma Hayek speaks at a press conference announcing her partnership with UNICEF and Pampers for the second year launching of their ‘One Pack = One Vaccine’ campaign, to help fight Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 in New York.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer)

## Salma Hayek marries in Paris on Valentine’s Day

By RACHID AOULI,

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Salma Hayek picked a most romantic time and place to get married: Valentine’s Day in Paris. The Mexican-born actress wed French magnate Francois-Henri Pinault in a civil ceremony Saturday at the City Hall in Paris’ chic 6th arrondissement, according to an official there.

The wedding was a small affair, said the official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity, in accordance with policy.

Hayek’s spokeswoman, Cari Ross, confirmed in an e-mail Monday that the marriage had taken place in Paris Saturday. No further details were provided.

The nuptials followed a rocky romance. The two met in Italy in 2006, announced their engagement and had a baby, Valentina Paloma, in September 2007. Last year they broke off their engagement but made up a few months later.

Hayek, 42, was nominated for an Oscar in 2003 for the film “Frida,” the biography of the painter Frida Kahlo, which she produced and starred in. She is one of the executive producers of the hit series “Ugly Betty” and is also the chief executive of Ventanazul, a production company she formed with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

Pinault, 46, is chief executive of the French luxury and retail group PPR SA, which owns high-end labels such as Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Balenciaga and Puma. □

# Chris Brown Breaks His Silence About Rihanna Incident



Jovie Baclayon

Los Angeles (E! Online) – Chris Brown says he is seeking counseling from loved ones and family members, one week after an alleged attack against his girlfriend, singer Rihanna.

“Words cannot begin to express how sorry and saddened I am over what transpired. I am seeking the counseling of my pastor, my mother and other loved ones and I am committed, with God’s help, to emerging a better person.”


The 19-year-old R&B singer issued a brief statement today through publicist Michael Sitrick. In it, Brown also says many of the reports about the incident are incorrect, although he doesn’t provide further details.

“Much of what has been speculated or reported on blogs and/or reported in the media is wrong. While I would like to be able to talk about this more, until the legal issues are resolved, this is all I can say except that I have not written any messages or made any posts to Facebook, on blogs or any place else. Those posts or writings under my name are frauds.”


Screengrabs of a fake Facebook page circulated online late last week, but was quickly determined to be a hoax.

Brown turned himself in on Feb. 8 and was booked on suspicion of making a criminal treath, but no charges have been filed yet. He is free on \$50,000 bail while the case is being investigated.

On Friday, Brown’s father said his son is at home and “very remorseful” over what happened. Rihanna is now at home in Barbados recuperating. □



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# Asthma May Start in the Womb



A heavy traffic jam in Beijing. Drving test candidates in China are given a booklet of 800 test questions, 100 of which appear on the actual exam

(AFP/File/Liu Jin)

Children born in areas heavy traffic areas could be at greater risk of developing asthma due to genetic changes brought on by pollution and acquired in the womb, a new study suggests.

In a study of umbilical cord blood from New York City children, researchers found a change in a gene called ACSL3 that is associated with prenatal exposure to chemical pollutants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are byproducts of incomplete combustion from carbon-containing fuels, resulting in high levels in heavy-traffic areas.

Exposure to PAHs has previously been linked to diseases such as cancer and childhood asthma.

Researchers say this finding provides a potential clue for predicting environmentally

related asthma in children - particularly those born to mothers who live in high-traffic areas like Northern Manhattan and South Bronx when pregnant.

The genetic alterations are called epigenetic changes, which may disrupt the normal functioning of genes by affecting their expression but do not cause structural changes or mutations in the genes.

“Our data support the concept that environmental exposures can interact with genes during key developmental periods to trigger disease onset later in life, and that tissues are being reprogrammed to become abnormal later,” said Shuk-mei Ho, University of Cincinnati researcher and lead author of a paper on the results published in the Feb. 16 issue of the journal PLoS ONE.

The researchers analyzed

umbilical cord white blood cell samples from 56 children for epigenetic alterations related to prenatal PAH exposure in Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx. The mothers’ exposure to PAHs was monitored during pregnancy using backpack air monitors. The researchers found a significant association between changes in ACSL3 methylation - a gene expressed in the lung - and maternal PAH exposure. ACSL3 also was associated with a parental report of asthma symptoms in the children prior to age 5.

“This research is aimed at detecting early signs of asthma risk so that we can better prevent this chronic disease that affects as many as 25 percent of children in Northern Manhattan and elsewhere,” said Frederica Perera, co-author on the paper from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

More research is needed to confirm the findings, the scientists said. If the study is confirmed, changes in the ACSL3 gene could serve as a novel biomarker for early diagnosis of pollution-related asthma.

“Understanding early predictors of asthma is an important area of investigation,” said study team member Rachel Miller of the Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health. “because they represent potential clinical targets for intervention.”

The study was funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and private foundations. □

# Gene Therapy Holds Promise for HIV

By Randy Dotinga

HealthDay Reporter

Researchers are reporting promising results from the largest clinical trial of gene therapy for HIV patients. The findings, while encouraging, need to be replicated and more research must be done before an effective new treatment arrives, experts said.

“We know it works, but we need to make it better before we launch a later study,” said study lead author Dr. Ronald Mitsuyasu, director of the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education.

Existing treatments work fairly well for many people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But patients have to take expensive drugs for their entire lives, and side effects can be significant.

Gene therapy is considered a possible alternative to drug treatment. Researchers hope to fight the virus by inserting a gene or genes into the body of an infected individual.

Last week, the New England Journal of Medicine reported a case that showed the potential for gene therapy and HIV. According to the journal, the body of a man in Germany with AIDS became free of the virus after he received a bone marrow transplant from a man with a gene that made him virtually immune to HIV. The treatment may not be a cure because the AIDS virus can become undetectable while still remaining in the body.

In the new study, researchers focused on a molecule that targets the AIDS virus. The scientists recruited 74 HIV-positive people and intravenously gave them either the molecule -- called OZ1 - - via blood stem cells, or a placebo. The patients then cycled on and off their HIV drugs so the researchers could see if the virus rebounded. The patients who got the gene therapy treatment had a “modest decline” in the level of virus in their bodies, Mitsuyasu said. After 100 weeks, immune systems were also stronger in those patients who received the gene therapy vs. those who did not. In fact, some patients are doing so well that they haven’t returned to drug treatment, Mitsuyasu said.

The findings were published online Feb. 15 in the journal Nature Medicine.

The study was a “phase II” trial, meaning that a third study would be necessary before the treatment could be approved.

There’s more to be done, however, Mitsuyasu said.

“We need to figure out how best to perfect this approach. There are a lot of things that we could potentially do,” he said. But in the big picture, the research represents “the first clear indication in a randomized and controlled study that there is a biologic effect of gene therapy” for HIV, he added.

The new approach holds promise, said Rowena Johnston, vice president of research at the Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR) in New York City.

“One of the striking successes of this particular approach is its apparent safety, which is no small matter given the history so far of gene therapy interventions,” she said. “Gene therapy will probably represent an exciting new frontier that will receive increasing attention in the coming years. There are so many unexplored avenues to pursue with the real potential to provide a lasting solution for HIV/AIDS.” □

# Even Mismatched Cord Blood Can Help Kids

An umbilical cord blood transplant from an unrelated or unmatched donor can still help children with deadly conditions such as cancer and sickle cell anemia, Duke University Medical Center researchers report.

They noted that unrelated cord blood may be easier to obtain than adult bone marrow, which means more patients would be able to receive treatment.

“Our study found that using cord blood can be effective, without increased complications, and can provide more matches for patients, including

ethnic minorities,” lead investigator Dr. Vinod Prasad, a pediatric oncologist in the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program, said in a university news release. “Based on the findings of our study, we believe that unrelated cord blood transplant should be considered as an option for many of our young patients in need of a transplant.”

Prasad and colleagues analyzed data on 314 patients treated at Duke between 1993 and 2007. The patients, ages 6 months to 21 years, had malignant and non-malignant conditions □



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## Survey shows polar seas are no biological desert

By MICHAEL CASEY,  
AP Environmental Writer

BANGKOK, Thailand – The polar oceans are not biological deserts after all.

A marine census released Monday documented 7,500 species living in the Antarctic and 5,500 in the Arctic, including several hundred that researchers believe could be new to science.

And, in one of the biggest surprises, researchers said they discovered dozens of species common to both polar seas — separated by nearly 7,000 miles (11,000 kilometers).

Most of the new discoveries were simpler life forms known as invertebrates, or animals without backbones.

Researchers, for example, doubled the number of jellyfish-like Arctic ctenophore known to science from five to 10. One of those was the size and color of an orange, had bungee cord-like tentacles streaming off it and was living at a depth of two kilometers (1.2 miles).

They also found scores of sea spider species that were as big as a human hand and tiny, shrimp-like crustaceans in the Arctic basin that live at a depth of 9,850 feet (3,000 meters).

“The textbooks have said there is less diversity at the poles than the tropics but we found astonishing richness of marine life in the Antarctic and Arctic oceans,” said Victoria Wadley, a researcher from the Australian Antarctic Division who took part in the Antarctic survey. “We are rewriting the textbooks.”

Gilly Llewellyn, leader of the oceans program for the environmental group WWF-Australia, said the numbers of species found shows just how little was known about these frigid regions.

“We probably know more about deep space than we do about the deep polar oceans in our own backyard,” said Llewellyn, who did not take part in the survey. “This critical research is helping reveal the amazing biodiversity of the polar regions.”

The survey — which included over 500 polar researchers from 25 countries — took place during International Polar Year which ran in 2007-2008.

Researchers braved up to 48-foot (16-meter) waves on their trip to the Antarctic while their colleagues in the Arctic worked under the watchful eye of a security guard hired to protect them from polar bears.

New technology also helped make the expeditions more efficient and productive than in the past. Researchers used cell-phone-like tracking devices, for example, to record the Arctic migration of narwhals, a whale with a long twisted tooth, and remotely operated submersibles to reach several miles (kilometers) down into the oceans to study delicate marine animals that are impossible to collect.

The survey is one of several projects of the Census of Marine Life, an international effort to catalog all life in the oceans. The 10-year census, scheduled for final publication in 2010, is supported by governments, divisions of the United Nations and private conservation organizations.

As many as 235 species were found in both polar seas, including five whale species, six sea birds and nearly 100 species of crustaceans.

“We think of the Arctic and Antarctic as similar habitats but they are separated by great distances,” said University of Alaska Fairbanks plankton ecologist Russ Hopcroft, who took part in the Arctic survey.

“So finding species at both ends of the Earth — some of which don’t have a known connection in between — raises a whole bunch of evolutionary questions,” he said.

Hopcroft and other polar researchers will now try to determine how long these species have been separated and whether they have drifted apart genetically.

David Barnes, of the British Antarctic Survey, said there a number of possibilities to explain how similar species live so far apart. Some may have traveled along the deep-sea currents that link the poles or may have thrived during the height of the last ice age about 20,000 years ago when the polar environment was expanded and the two habitats were closer.

Hopcroft and Barnes cautioned that more work needs to be done to confirm whether the 235 species are indeed the same or differ genetically. □

## Same Species Found at Both Ends of Earth

Scientists have determined that at least 235 species live in both polar seas despite the 8,000 miles (13,000 km) between the ends of the Earth.

How some of the creatures wound up at the top and bottom of the planet is a mystery. Distance and habitat divisions - such as warm water between the two regions - are among the things that can separate creatures and lead to new species. A DNA analysis is underway to confirm if the like species are in fact identical, the researchers announced today.

The researchers also found evidence that cold water species are moving toward the poles to escape rising ocean temperatures. The project has also returned dramatic photos of species as wide-ranging as ice-loving sand fleas and an antifreeze Antarctic fish that can withstand temperatures that would freeze other fish.

Among the beasts that call both polar seas home are marathon migrators such as grey whales and birds. But the researchers, working on the ongoing Census of Marine Life, also found bipolar worms, crustaceans, and angelic snail-like pteropods.

“The polar seas, far from being biological deserts, teem with an amazing quantity and variety of life,” said Ian Poiner, chair of the Census Scientific Steering Committee for the project.

Biologists from several nations have for the past two years worked on the census, at times braving 48-foot (16-meter) waves and frigid conditions.

“Only through the cooperation of 500 people from more than 25 countries could the daunting environmental challenges be overcome to produce research of such unprecedented scale and importance,” Poiner said. “And humanity

is only starting to understand the nature of these regions.”

The team estimates there are 7,500 animals in the Antarctic and 5,500 in the Arctic, and the total number of marine life species known globally is about 250,000. That number may eventually rise to about a million, scientists say. In general, other scientists have said they do not know how many species exist on Earth. The National Science Foundation estimates there could be anywhere from 5 million to 100 million species of life on the planet, but science has only identified about 2 million.

One result of the sea-life census: Researchers are beginning to understand how the polar seas act as incubators for life that sometimes ventures away from the poles as sea temperatures rise and fall over the eons. Last year they discovered that several octopus types have repeatedly colonized the deep sea, each migration coinciding with retreating Antarctic ice over 30 million years.

The scientists now theorize that the Antarctic regularly refreshes the world’s oceans with many new creatures, including different varieties of sea spiders, isopods (crustaceans related to shrimp and crabs), and more. They believe the new species evolve when expansions of ice cloister around the south polar region; when the ice retreats, creatures radiate northward along the same pathways followed by the octopuses.

Meanwhile, the census finds smaller marine species are replacing larger ones in some Arctic waters. The reasons are unclear but the implications for the Arctic food web may be profound, the scientists said. □

## Climate warming gases rising faster than expected

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID,  
AP Science Writer

CHICAGO — Despite widespread concern over global warming, humans are adding carbon to the atmosphere even faster than in the 1990s, researchers warned Saturday.

Carbon dioxide and other gases added to the air by industrial and other activities have been blamed for rising temperatures, increasing worries about possible major changes in weather and climate.

Carbon emissions have been growing at 3.5 percent per year since 2000, up sharply from the 0.9 percent per year in the 1990s, Christopher Field of the Carnegie Institution for Science told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

“It is now outside the entire envelope of possibilities” considered in the 2007 report of the International Panel on Climate Change, he said. The IPCC and former vice president Al Gore received the Nobel Prize for drawing attention to the dangers of climate change.

The largest factor in this increase is the widespread adoption of coal as an energy source, Field said, “and without aggressive attention societies will continue

to focus on the energy sources that are cheapest, and that means coal.”

Past projections for declines in the emissions of greenhouse gases were too optimistic, he added. No part of the world had a decline in emissions from 2000 to 2008.

Anny Cazenave of France’s National Center for Space Studies told the meeting that improved satellite measurements show that sea levels are rising faster than had been expected.

Rising oceans can pose a threat to low level areas such as South Florida, New York and other coastal areas as the ocean warms and expands and as water is added from melting ice sheets. And the rise is uneven, with the fastest rising areas at about 1 centimeter — 0.39 inch — per year in parts of the North Atlantic, western Pacific and the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica, she said.

Also, highly promoted efforts to curb carbon emissions through the use of biofuels may even backfire, other researchers said. Demand for biologically based fuels has led to the growing of more corn in the United States, but that means fields were switched from soybeans to corn, explained Michael Coe of the

Woods Hole Research Center.

But there was no decline in the demand for soy, he said, meaning other countries, such as Brazil, increased their soy crops to make up for the deficit.

In turn, Brazil created more soy fields by destroying tropical forests, which tend to soak up carbon dioxide. Instead the forests were burned, releasing the gasses into the air.

The increased emissions from Brazil swamp any declines recorded by the United States, he said.

Holly Gibbs of Stanford University said that if crops like sugar and oil palm are planted after tropical forests are burned, the extra carbon released may be balanced by lower emissions from biofuel in 40 to 120 years, but for crops such as corn and cassava it can take hundreds of years to break equal.

“If we run our cars on biofuels produced in the tropics, chances will be good that we are effectively burning rainforests in our gas tanks,” she said. However, there could be benefits from planting crops for biofuels on degraded land, such as fields that are not offering low productivity due to salinity, soil erosion or nutrient leaching. □





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## Mr. President, They're Just Not That Into You

The Nation -- That was quick.

Less than a month into his presidency, Barack Obama has found that no one is really buying bipartisanship. His base hates it, as the blogs will tell you. His allies in Congress resent it, as Sen. Schumer signaled on Sunday morning. And while media outlets still prioritize a bipartisan process over actual policy substance, like this weird Washington Post editorial, even centrist pundits are souring on Obama's bipartisan bouquets. Time's Joe Klein, a fan of bipartisanship, has concluded that bipartisanship is currently impossible because there are no good faith partners in Washington: Obama should now understand that the Republicans are not reliable partners--at least, not for the moment. Most are stuck in the contentious past, rutted in Reaganism, intent on taking a Hooverist course on the economy... The President's default position, after the stimulus fight and the Gregg fiasco, should be to appoint Democrats to significant domestic policy positions...

I don't happen to think Sen. Gregg's indecision qualifies as a fiasco, but it does add a personal flavor to the Republicans' political posture. Here's the bottom line: They're just not that into Obama. Yes, the President can keep calling them and saying all the right things. He can woo them and invite them over, like that hyped White House "bipartisan super bowl party." He can go to their home, like his trek to Maryland for two and a half hours of lamb chops and neocons. He can even add their ideas to his legislation and their nominees to his cabinet, as The Nation's Ari Berman recounts. If Obama is taking all those actions based on their own intrinsic value -- for healthy debate and a wide circle of advisers -- then fine. The notion that this bipartisan process will yield more GOP support, however, has been officially shredded. If it doesn't work now, with Obama's recent election mandate, booming approval ratings and a public eager for government action to address the economic crisis, it's not going to work. And anyone who thinks the G.O.P. will get more cooperative is placing a bet on politicians growing less political as the next elections draw closer. Team Obama is already recalibrating, naturally. Rahm Emanuel recently noted that an "insatiable appetite" for bipartisanship made Obama's team "get ahead" of itself. The President, for his part, clarified that bipartisan outreach does not make him a "interview back in 2007, in a clip which the blogger Jed Lewison recently flagged: I don't like people trying to take advantage of that [outreach]. This is why actually if you watch my political interactions. I am always best as a counter-puncher. You know, somebody comes at me I will knock them out. If not, I will try to understand their point of view and that actually serves me well. I give people the benefit of the doubt; I try to understand their point of view -- if I perceive that they try to take advantage of that then I will crush them.

It's about that time, obviously. □

## Obama is Big on Symbolism

Jack Kelly

At the battle of Asculum in 279 BC, the Greek king Pyrrhus defeated a Roman legion, but at frightful cost to his own troops. When sycophantic courtiers congratulated him on his "great victory," Pyrrhus responded: "one more such victory, and we shall be undone." President Obama plans to celebrate his Asculum -- passage of the (at least) \$787 billion "stimulus" bill -- with a signing ceremony in Denver Tuesday. Sycophantic courtiers in the news media hailed this as a great victory for the president, but it comes at the cost of the illusion Mr. Obama represents a change from the corrupt old ways of Washington.

Candidate Obama promised a new openness in government. But the biggest spending bill ever was drafted behind closed doors. Candidate Obama pledged to weaken the influence of lobbyists. But lobbyists received copies of the "stimulus" bill before lawmakers did. Candidate Obama pledged a bipartisan approach to government. But not a single Republican in the House, and only three in the Senate, voted for it.

Mr. Obama is fond of the appearance of bipartisanship. He nominated three Republicans to his Cabinet. He's dined with

conservative columnists, and invited several GOP lawmakers to watch the Super Bowl with him.

But Mr. Obama is like a young man who expects a girl to put out if he buys her a hamburger and a beer. If he were more concerned about the substance of bipartisanship, he'd have insisted upon a stimulus package more Republicans could support, and he wouldn't now be looking for his third nominee for Secretary of Commerce.

Sen. Gregg withdrew, citing "irreconcilable differences" over the stimulus package. The more important reason was because the president had made it clear Sen. Gregg was just to be window dressing. The Commerce secretary has only one important job, to oversee the decennial census. If illegal aliens are counted as citizens, several House seats could be shifted from the Republicans to the Democrats after the next reapportionment. Cheating is the Chicago Way, but Sen. Gregg is both honest and a Republican. He couldn't be counted on to cheat. So the president announced oversight of the census would be shifted to the White House. This is probably illegal, and it made Sen. Gregg look like a chump. So he did the only thing an honorable man could do.

With so many of the president's nominees having to withdraw because of ethical problems, it was refreshing to have one withdraw because he had ethics. But several of the president's courtiers in the news media described Sen. Gregg's resignation, and the paucity of GOP votes for the porkalooza, as evidence of a Republican "war" against Mr. Obama.

"Their clear intent is to do all they can, however they can, to sabotage the new administration," wrote Andrew Sullivan in the Atlantic. Mr. Sullivan and others of his ilk see nothing partisan in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's exclusion of Republicans from the drafting of the stimulus bill; in the president's refusal to make meaningful compromises, or in the transfer of census oversight to the White House.

President Obama is very big on symbolism.

He is signing the bill in Denver, the city where he was nominated for president, on Tuesday (in violation of his pledge to have at least five days elapse between passage of a law and his signing of it to allow time for public comment), because Tuesday is four weeks precisely since his inauguration.

Symbolism is important. But presidents ultimately are judged on substance. □

## To slow climate change, tax carbon

By Nick Schulz

Washington -- Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) of California announced this month she intends to move ahead with legislation designed to lower the emission of greenhouse gases that are linked by many scientists to climate change. But the approach she's taking is flawed, and the current financial crisis can help us understand why.

The centerpiece of this approach is the creation of a market for trading carbon emission credits. These credits would be either distributed free of charge or auctioned to major emitters of greenhouse gases. The firms could then buy and sell permits under federally mandated emissions caps. If a company is able to cut emissions, it can sell excess credits for a profit. If it needs to emit more, it can buy permits on the market from other firms.

"Cap and trade," as it is called, is advocated by several policymakers, industry leaders, and activists who want to fight global warming. But it's based on the trade of highly volatile financial instruments: risky at best.

The better approach to climate change? A direct tax placed on emissions of greenhouse gases. The tax would create a market price for carbon emissions and lead to emissions reductions or new technologies that cut greenhouse gases. This

is an approach favored by many economists as the financially sensible way to go. And it is getting a closer look by some industry professionals and lawmakers.

At first blush, it might seem crazy to advocate a tax increase during a major recession. But there are several virtues of a tax on carbon emissions relative to a cap-and-trade program.

For starters, the country already has a mechanism in place to deal with taxes. Tax collection is something the government has abundant experience with. A carbon trading scheme, on the other hand, requires the creation of elaborate new markets, institutions, and regulations to oversee and enforce it.

Another relative advantage of the tax is its flexibility. It is easier to adjust the tax to adapt to changing economic, scientific, or other circumstances. If the tax is too low to be effective, it can be raised easily. If it is too burdensome it can be relaxed temporarily.

In contrast, a cap-and-trade program creates emissions permits that provide substantial economic value to firms and industries. These assets limit the program's flexibility once under way, since market actors then have an interest in maintaining the status quo to preserve the value of the assets. □



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at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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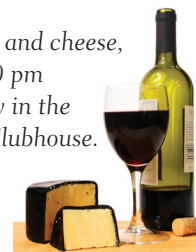
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# Obama returns to Washington, Afghan decision near

By PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama plans to make a decision soon about sending additional troops to Afghanistan, his chief spokesman said Monday.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the administration continues to review its policy toward Afghanistan, some seven years after U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban-led government. Gibbs cautioned that no firm timetable had been set, nor had administration officials settled on how many — if any — new troops would be involved.

“Without getting into broad time lines, I wouldn’t — I don’t think this is anything that involves weeks,” Gibbs told reporters traveling with the president on Air Force One



President Barack Obama returns a salute as he steps off Marine One helicopter on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington as he returns from Chicago, Monday, Feb. 16, 2009.

Associated Press

back from Chicago, where the Obama family spent a long weekend in their hometown.

Obama won’t be in Washington long; on Tuesday he heads to the American West, where he will sign the economic stimulus legislation into law in Denver. He also will visit Canada this week. In Afghanistan, Taliban insurgents have regained ground and the new Obama administration is contemplating doubling troop levels as part of a strategy to reclaim control. Addressing the ongoing war there is one of the administration’s top — and most watched — priorities.

Anticipation of the troop build up in Afghanistan has been high since Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last Tuesday that Obama was days away from announcing his decision.

*Continued on Page B4*

## British, French nuclear subs collide in Atlantic Ocean

By DAVID STRINGER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Nuclear submarines from Britain and France collided deep in the Atlantic Ocean this month, authorities said Monday in the first acknowledgment of a highly unusual accident that one expert called the gravest in nearly a decade.

Officials said the low-speed crash did not damage the vessels’ nuclear reactors or missiles or cause radiation to leak. But anti-nuclear groups said it was still a frightening reminder of the risks posed by submarines prowling the oceans powered by radioactive material and bristling with nuclear weapons.

The first public indication of a mishap came when France reported in a little-noticed Feb. 6 statement that one of its submarine had struck a submerged object — perhaps a shipping container. But confirmation of the accident only came after British media reported it.

France’s defense ministry said Monday that the sub Le Triomphant and the HMS Vanguard, the oldest vessel in Britain’s nuclear-armed submarine fleet, were on routine patrol when they collided in the Atlantic this month. It did not say exactly when, where or how the accident occurred.

France said that Le Triomphant suffered damage to a sonar dome — where navigation and detection equipment is stored — and limped home to its base on L’Île Longue on France’s western tip. HMS Vanguard returned to a submarine base in Scotland with visible dents and scrapes, the BBC reported.

“The two submarines came into contact at very low speed,” Britain’s First Sea Lord, Admiral Jonathon Band, said. Band, Britain’s most senior naval officer, offered no further explanation.

HMS Vanguard came into service in 1993, has a crew of around 140 and typically carries 16 Lockheed Trident D5 missiles. Under government

policy, British nuclear submarines carry a maximum of 48 warheads. At least one of Britain’s four submarines is on patrol and ready to fire at any given time.

France’s Le Triomphant carries 111 crew and 15 nuclear missiles, according to defense analysis group Jane’s.

“This is the most severe incident involving a nuclear submarine since the sinking of the Kursk in 2000 and the first time since the Cold War that two nuclear-armed subs are known to have collided,” said Kate Hudson, head of Britain’s Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Russia’s Kursk nuclear submarine crashed to the bottom of the Barents Sea during a training voyage in August 2000, killing all 118 crew members.

In March 2007 two British sailors were killed in an explosion on board HMS Tireless during a war game beneath the Arctic ice cap. The same submarine crashed into an object, possibly an iceberg,



while on patrol in the Arctic in May 2003. And in November 2002 HMS Trafalgar suffered considerable external damage after running aground on rocks off Scotland while taking part in a two-week training exercise “It’s an absolute one in a million chance that the two submarines were in the same place at the same time,” said Lee Willett, head of the maritime studies program at the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based military think tank. “There is no precedent of an incident like this — it’s a freak accident,” he said.

Stephen Saunders, a retired British Royal Navy commodore and the editor of Jane’s

Fighting Ships, said that while NATO countries let each other know what general area of the Atlantic they are operating in, neither submarine would have had a precise position for the other.

“This really shouldn’t have happened at all,” Saunders said. “It’s a very serious incident, and I find it quite extraordinary.”

Both Saunders and Willett said submarines don’t always turn on their sonar systems, or make their presence obvious.

“The whole point is to go and hide in a big chunk of ocean and not be found. They tend to go around very slowly and not make much noise,” Saunders said. □



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Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, gestures as he speaks during a session at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009.

*Associated Press*

## Former President Clinton: Obama off to good start

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton said Monday he thinks the country will surmount the current economic crisis and gave President Barack Obama high marks for the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill that will be signed this week. “I think he’s off to a good start,” Clinton said. “I think he’s got a good team.” He said he thought Obama’s White House handled the stimulus issue relatively well, “given the fact they had to do it in a hurry.” Clinton also said he believes the massive bill, which combines spending and tax cuts, will be “our bridge over troubled waters.” Clinton also said he believes the threat of terrorism and global instability are longer-term problems the U.S. must deal with. He confirmed he has talked to Obama about

the job of president, although Clinton said he didn’t want to be too specific, saying only that they talked about “nuts and bolts” issues of the presidency. Asked his perspective on how the country fell into such economic hard times, Clinton responded in an NBC “Today” show interview by asking rhetorically: “Did any of them seriously believe that if I had been president and my economic team had been in place the last eight years, that this would be taking place?” In another interview, Clinton was asked which president he would most identify with. “Personally, I’m not sure,” he told CNN. “One guy wrote a book saying that I was most like Thomas Jefferson, but the times in which I governed were most like

Theodore Roosevelt’s. And we had — and the results I received were similar. We had — he had enormous success. The country was better off when he quit than when he started.” Clinton also said that several of the programs that Theodore Roosevelt pushed “were not actually done until his cousin, Franklin Roosevelt, became president, you know, more than 20 years later.” “I think that a lot of the things that I recommended in terms of the health care reform will come to fruition now that we have a more modern Democratic Congress ... and the Obama administration there,” he said. “I’ll be surprised if they don’t get health care reform and some of the other things I recommended. I’m excited about it.” □




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# Despite Obama pledge, DoJ defends Bush secrets

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Despite President Obama's vow to open government more than ever, the Justice Department is defending Bush administration decisions to keep secret many documents about domestic wiretapping, data collection on travelers and U.S. citizens, and interrogation of suspected terrorists.

In half a dozen lawsuits, Justice lawyers have opposed formal motions or spurned out-of-court offers to delay court action until the new administration rewrites Freedom of Information Act guidelines and decides whether the new rules might allow the public to see more.

In only one case has the Justice Department agreed to suspend a FOIA lawsuit until the disputed documents can be re-evaluated under the yet-to-be-written guidelines. That case involves negotiations on an anti-counterfeiting treaty, not the more controversial, secret anti-terrorism tactics that spawned the other lawsuits as well as

Obama's promises of greater openness.

"The signs in the last few days are not entirely encouraging," said Jameel Jaffer, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed several lawsuits seeking the Bush administration's legal rationales for warrantless domestic wiretapping and for its treatment of terrorism detainees.

Groups that advocate open government, civil liberties and privacy were overjoyed that Obama on his first day in office reversed the FOIA policy imposed by Bush's first attorney general, John Ashcroft. The Bush Justice Department said it would use any legitimate legal basis to defend withholding records from the public. Obama pledged "an unprecedented level of openness in government" and ordered new FOIA guidelines written with a "presumption in favor of disclosure."

But Justice's actions in courts since then have cast doubt on how far the new administration will go.

In a FOIA case seeking access to the rules governing the FBI's

Investigative Data Warehouse — a computer database containing 1 billion searchable documents about Americans and foreigners — Justice lawyers told a district court here Thursday, "It is not clear that the new guidelines, once issued, will be retrospective to FOIA requests that the agency already has finished processing."

They asked the court to rule instead that the FBI has done enough. The bureau has reviewed 878 pages, withheld 76 and released some portions of 802.

To withhold some material, the FBI cited discretionary FOIA exemptions and ones that require balancing privacy and public interests. David Sobel, attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based group that advocates civil liberties in cyberspace and brought the lawsuit, said those decisions might come out differently under the new guidelines.

The issue isn't retroactivity, Sobel said. "The issue is whether the new administration is going to devote legal resources to



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama and former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush, waves as on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2009, in Washington before Bush prepares to depart.

Associated Press

fighting old battles now that the president has announced a fundamental change in the government's approach to FOIA." Other lawsuits in which Justice's civil division has expressed opposition to delays until the administration writes

its FOIA guidelines and uses them to review Bush decisions: — One seeking documents about the Automated Targeting System used by Customs officers to screen all travelers leaving or entering the country.

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In a , Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 photo, U.S. Col. David Haight, right, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, whose soldiers are stationed in Logar and Wardak provinces, speaks as Wardak's chief police Muzafaruddin, second right, Wardak's province Governor Mohammed Halim Fedayi, third right, and Logar's province Governor Atiqullah Ludin are seen during a press conference in Logar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan. Close to 3,000 U.S. troops newly arrived in Afghanistan to secure two increasingly violent provinces on Kabul's door step will see an increase in violence in coming months, the unit's commander says.

*Associated Press*

**AFGHAN DECISION**  
**Continued from Page B1**

Yet no formal announcement

has emerged. Gibbs noted that U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke is in the region talking with

leaders about how best to address the situation. Obama also has met with military leaders and his foreign policy advisers, both at the Pentagon and the State Department. Obama has been widely believed likely to send fresh forces to the Afghan battle even as a wide review of U.S. strategy and goals there gets fully under way. Gates had told a Pentagon news conference last week that Obama "will have several options in front of him." Gates suggested, as have other officials, that the ground commander in Afghanistan would eventually get all the forces he has asked for, but no more.

Lt. Gen. David McKiernan wants more fighting forces and support troops such as helicopter crews to push back against the Taliban in Afghanistan's increasingly dangerous south and eastern

regions. An opponent of the "surge" of U.S. forces that is now credited with turning around the Iraq war, Obama has taken a cautious approach to the addition of forces in Afghanistan. He is expected to initially approve only part of a military request for as many as 30,000 forces this year, while military and civilian advisers revamp U.S. war goals. Gibbs' comments came as the president, his wife and daughters arrived at Andrews Air Force Base just outside Washington at midday Monday. His family had left for Chicago on Friday aboard

Air Force One. Among items topping Obama's agenda this week is signing into law the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan that Congress passed last Friday. While in Chicago, the first family did not have a public schedule. The president played basketball with friends, visited the gym and got a haircut. Barack and Michelle Obama celebrated Valentine's Day with a dinner at Oprah Winfrey's personal chef's restaurant on Saturday. It was Obama's first significant break since taking office on Jan. 20. □

## Korea may distract from Clinton message to Asia

By MATTHEW LEE

**Associated Press Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's first official overseas trip was overshadowed by harsh North Korean rhetoric, epitomizing how new administrations often can be hemmed in by problems inherited from their predecessors.

At the outset of her Asian trip, Clinton declared in Japan: "I have come to Asia on my first trip as secretary of state to convey that America's relationships across the Pacific are indispensable to addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities of the 21st century."

"We will be looking for ways to collaborate on issues that go beyond just our mutual concerns to really addressing global concerns," Clinton said at a ceremony to commemorate the arrival of the first secretary of state ever to make Japan their first overseas stop.

Yet her message was in danger of being eclipsed by Pyongyang, which just hours before vowed to press ahead with test-firing what wary neighboring governments, particularly Japan and South Korea, believe is a long-range missile.

Japan, with an unpopular government and struggling with deep economic woes, is particularly jittery at the moment and Clinton aims to reassure the country of its importance in the international arena.

"The bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan is a cornerstone in our efforts around the world," she said. On Tuesday, she is expected to announce that she will send a special U.S. envoy to a Japanese-hosted donors conference for Pakistan.

In addition to meeting with top government officials and members of the opposition, Clinton will sign an agreement to move about 8,000 of the 50,000 Marines on the island of Okinawa to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

But, North Korea looms large over her visit. She has promised to meet with the families of Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s. "We do want to press the North Koreans to be more forthcoming with information," she said en route to Tokyo.

Last week, she had warned North Korea against any "provocative action and unhelpful rhetoric" amid signs the Stalinist nation was preparing to test fire a missile capable of reaching the western United States. But on Monday, the 67th birthday of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, Pyongyang claimed that it has the right to "space development" — a term it has used in the past to disguise a missile test as a satellite launch. When North Korea test-fired a long-range missile in 1998, it claimed to have put a satellite into orbit. □

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# Storm dumps rain, snow on California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A winter storm blanketed California with heavy rain and snow on Monday, forcing the closure of a major highway and the cancellation of the final round of a national golf tournament.

The West Coast storm stretched from the Mexican border up to Oregon and Washington state and was expected to last through Tuesday afternoon, said Stan Wasowski, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in San Diego.

He said rain clouds extended several hundred miles off the Pacific coast.

"This one here is hitting the entire state," Wasowski said. Heavy snow forced the closure of a 50-mile stretch of Interstate 5 in both directions

## 1 Mo. soldier dead of meningitis; 1 seriously ill

By JIM SALTER  
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS — One soldier is dead of meningitis at Fort Leonard Wood and a second is "very seriously ill," according to officials at the Army base in southern Missouri.

Fort Leonard Wood officials announced the cases in a news release Sunday but released few details and did not identify either infected soldier. A media spokesman at the base on Monday said there was no additional information other than what was in the release.

Meningitis, an infection of the fluid of the spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain, kills about 300 people in the U.S. each year.

Both case at Fort Leonard Wood involved non-contagious forms of meningitis, authorities said. The two soldiers were members of the same unit, but no connection has been found between the cases.

"Although difficult to comprehend, all clinical data show these cases are unrelated and purely coincidental," Lt. Col. John Lowery, deputy commander for clinical services at Fort Leonard Wood, said in a statement.

The first soldier died after being diagnosed on Feb. 5. The second soldier is a 28-year-old in basic training who was diagnosed Friday with a strep pneumonia infection leading to meningitis. The base said that soldier is "very seriously ill" but in stable condition at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Brian Quinn of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said he was

not familiar with the Fort Leonard Wood cases.

Authorities say that even though the illnesses were non-contagious forms, they are "heightening awareness" of preventive measures. Soldiers are being reminded to wash their hands, avoid sharing utensils and to use proper cough etiquette and personal hygiene.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Surgeon General's office and the Army Medical Command are reviewing the Fort Leonard Wood cases.

Elsewhere, three students at the University of Pennsylvania were improving after contracting meningitis this month.

Penn canceled all official university and student-sponsored parties over the weekend, and more than 2,100 students have received antibiotics as a precaution.

The CDC said meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and resolves without specific treatment, the CDC said. □

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A California Highway Patrol officer turns traffic around on Interstate I-15 as snow conditions forced the highway closed in the Cajon Pass on Monday Feb. 16, 2009. A winter storm that could be the largest of the season blanketed California with heavy rain and snow on Monday, forcing the closure of a major highway and the cancellation of the final round of a national golf tournament.

*Associated Press*

in the mountains north of Los Angeles. The roadway is the region's main north-south artery.

"We don't see it opening any time soon," said David Porter, a California Highway Patrol officer.

In Northern California, a flood advisory was issued for the San Francisco Bay area and a flash flood watch was in effect for much of California's central coast, where flooded greens forced the cancellation of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am's final round.

The PGA Tour declared

Dustin Johnson the winner after he built a four-shot lead on Saturday, before the rain began.

In Southern California, rain brought renewed fears of mudslides in areas ravaged by wildfires last year. The eastern Los Angeles County city of Sierra Madre has warned residents they may need to leave their homes, and a voluntary evacuation order was in effect early Monday.

Up to 7 feet of snow had fallen in the Sierra Nevada over the past week, and more was expected by early Tuesday. □

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# Israel seizes West Bank land for settlement expansion

By **KARIN LAUB**

Associated Press Writer

**EFRAT, West Bank (AP)** — Plans to expand a West Bank settlement by up to 2,500 homes drew Palestinian condemnation Monday and presented an early test for President Barack Obama, whose Mideast envoy is well known for opposing such construction.

Israel opened the way for possible expansion of the Efrat settlement by taking control of a nearby West Bank hill of 423 acres. The rocky plot was recently designated state land

and is part of a master plan that envisions the settlement growing from 9,000 to 30,000 residents, Efrat Mayor Oded Revivi said.

Israeli officials said any new construction would require several years more of planning and stages of approval.

The outgoing government of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said it reserves the right to keep building in large West Bank settlement blocs that it wants to annex as part of a final peace deal with the Palestinians. Efrat is in one of those blocs.

The composition of Israel's next government is not clear yet, because last week's elections were inconclusive. However, right-wing parties are given a better chance to form a ruling coalition, with hard-line leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister. Speaking to U.S. Jewish leaders Monday, the two contenders for leading the new Israeli government expressed their differences over the Palestinian issue.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, whose centrist Kadima party won 28 of the 120 seats in

parliament in last week's election, said Israel must withdraw from "parts of the Land of Israel," a reference to the West Bank, in a peace deal.

Netanyahu, whose hawkish Likud won 27 seats, said he does not want to govern Palestinians but insisted on Israeli control of borders, airspace and electronic communications.

Netanyahu supports settlement expansion and has derided peace talks with the Palestinians as a waste of time, saying he would focus instead on trying to improve the Palestinian economy. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called Netanyahu's approach

unacceptable, and his aides said recently that peace talks can resume only if settlement construction is halted.

"We oppose settlement activity in principle, and if the settlement activity doesn't stop, any meetings (with the Israelis) will be worthless," Abbas said Monday.

Settlement expansion is likely to create friction not only with the Palestinians, but with Obama, whose Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, has long pushed for a freeze on the expansion of Jewish settlements. Still, settlements have grown steadily, including during the past year of U.S.-backed peace talks that ended without results.

*Continued on Next Page*

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		matinee: 12:20	2:20	late show:	12:35	
<b>R</b>	<b>ROLE MODEL</b>	daily: 4:10	6:15	8:20	10:25	
		matinee: 12:00	2:10	late show:	12:30	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>	daily: 4:00	6:40	9:15		
		matinee: 1:20		late show:	11:55	
<b>R</b>	<b>CHANGELING</b>	daily:	6:30	9:20		
		matinee:		late show:	12:10	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>YES MAN</b>	daily: 4:20				
		matinee: 11:55	2:05	late show:		
<b>PG</b>	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 3:4	5:50	8:00	10:10	
		matinee: 1:30		late show:	12:20	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>TAKEN</b>	daily: 4:05	6:05	8:05	10:05	
		matinee: 11:55	2:00	late show:	12:00	

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

<b>R</b>	<b>FRIDAY THE 13TH</b>	daily: 5:40	7:55	10:00	<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 1:20	3:30	late show:	12:05
<b>PG</b>	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 4:05	6:05	8:10	10:15
		matinee: 12:00	2:05	late show:	12:25
<b>R</b>	<b>ROLE MODELS</b>	daily: 4:00	6:10	8:15	10:20
		matinee: 11:55	1:55	late show:	12:40
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>YES MAN</b>	daily:		8:00	10:10
		matinee:		late show:	12:20
<b>PG</b>	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 3:35	5:50		
		matinee: 1:20		late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS</b>	daily: 4:20	6:20	8:30	10:25
		matinee: 12:15	2:20	late show:	12:30
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>	daily: 6:30	9:10		
		matinee: 1:15	3:55	late show:	11:50

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<b>R</b>	<b>NOTORIOUS</b>	Thursday: 8:00	Friday: 8:00 & 10:30
<b>R</b>	<b>BEDTIME STORIES</b>	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30	Sunday: 8:00

**Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat**



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## ISRAEL

*Continued from Previous Page*

Nearly 290,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements today, or 95,000 more than in May 2001, when Mitchell led a U.S. fact-finding mission to the West Bank to find ways of ending several months of Israeli-Palestinian violence and resuming peace talks.

At the time, Mitchell called on Palestinian authorities to rein in militants involved in deadly bombings and shootings against Israelis, and he said Israel must freeze all settlement construction.

The newly designated state land, called "Eitam Hill" by settlers, is more than 2 kilometers (a mile) north of Efrat and just east of a cluster of Palestinian towns and villages, with biblical Bethlehem at the center.

Abdel Rahman al-Haj, a Palestinian plumber in Bethlehem, said that he owns 5.5 acres (2 hectares) between Efrat and Eitam Hill and that intruders with bulldozers had repeatedly tried to clear a dirt road across his land since last month, in an apparent attempt to create access to Eitam Hill. The dirt road was clearly visible during a visit Monday. Al-Haj said he filed a complaint with the Israeli police and obtained a stop-work order from Israel's Civil Administration, the branch of



Abdel Rahman al-Haj displays what he says is a stop-work order by the Israeli authorities to keep settler bulldozers off his land near the West Bank settlement of Efrat outside of Bethlehem, Monday, Feb 16, 2009.

the Israeli military that deals with West Bank land use. Civil Administration officials had no immediate comment on the case.

Revivi, the Efrat mayor, said he was unaware of bulldozers clearing al-Haj's land. "Everything is done in accordance with what the government is allowing us to do," he said.

However, Efrat municipal engineer Moshe Ben Elisha wrote in a recent edition of the settlement's newspaper, Efraton, that "efforts are currently under way to create continuity between Olive Hill (an area of Efrat) and Eitam Hill." He did not elaborate.

Yesh Din, an Israeli human rights group involved in the case, said Monday that over

the years Israel's government has assigned almost all areas designated as state land to settlements. Yesh Din said that is a violation of international law, which requires an occupying power to act for the benefit of the local population.

"Declaring these huge amounts of land as 'state land,' as done by the Civil Administration, is only for expanding the settlement and not for the local Palestinian population," Yesh Din said. □



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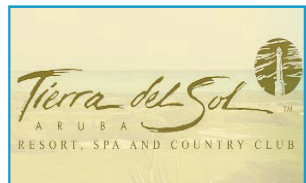
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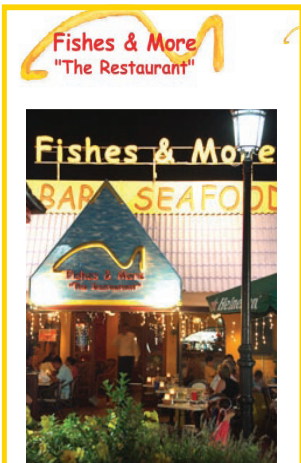


PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambience at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned

dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wienerschnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner ☐



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highest quality ham. The flavor and texture of the ham is the only one of its kind and the experience of the chef carving your personal slice is irreplaceable. The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing



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Grilled Lamb with Olive Oil and Lemon 18 \$

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their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Johnson wins Pebble without hitting a final shot



Dustin Johnson holds up his trophy on the 18th green of Pebble Beach golf links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. The tournament ended after 54 holes due to weather conditions.

*Associated Press*

### Porter says he's out as Phoenix Suns coach

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Terry Porter is out as coach of the Phoenix Suns, just four months into his first season with the club.

Porter told The Associated Press on Monday morning that Suns general manager Steve Kerr broke the news to him at a Sunday night meeting.

"I'm going to wait a few days to gather my thoughts before I say anything," Porter said.

Assistant coach Alvin Gentry will replace Porter, although the Suns have not yet made an announcement concerning their coaching situation.

Porter's dismissal was first reported by The Arizona Republic on its Web site Sunday.

Porter was in the first year of a three-year, \$6 million deal to replace Mike D'Antoni, who left after four highly successful seasons to coach the New York Knicks.

D'Antoni is a coach who lets his players run and shoot, and maybe play defense once in a while. It was Kerr's insistence on emphasizing defense that led, in large part, to D'Antoni's departure.

Porter wanted a defense-oriented team in the tough mold of the Detroit Pistons.

It was a bad fit.

Gentry, extremely popular with Suns players, has been a coach in the NBA for 20 years, including interim head coaching stints with Miami and Detroit. He was coach of the Los Angeles Clippers from 2000-03.

"I think Alvin is a great players' coach," Suns forward-center Amare Stoudemire said after Sunday's All-Star game in Phoenix. "He gets along with his players well. Of course, he'll have a great game plan from a basketball standpoint. I think it will be somewhat up-tempo."

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — Some 40 hours after hitting his last shot, Dustin Johnson won the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Monday when rain created a small river through one fairway and flooded greens, forcing officials to cancel the final round.

Johnson built a four-shot lead Saturday with a 67 at Poppy Hills, holing a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole that figured to give him a cushion going into the final round. But it was never played.

Rain and wind strong enough to topple a huge tree suspended the final round Sunday, and nearly 1½ inches of rain and a forecast for more gloom along the Monterey Peninsula left the PGA Tour no choice but to declare Johnson the winner.

Johnson won at Turning Stone last year with birdies on the last two holes. This time, he won while on his way to breakfast.

"I prepared myself that we were going to play today," he said. "I did everything normal like we were going to play. I still went to have breakfast, and that's when I found out that we weren't going to play. I found out from another player who actually called me and congratulated me. And I was like, 'What are you talking about?'"

Johnson, at 24 years and 7 months, is the youngest player to win the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am since Tiger Woods (24 years, 1 month) in 2000. With his victory, Johnson joins Anthony Kim as the only players under 25 with two PGA Tour victories.

This one came at a particularly

good time.

He moves up to No. 45 in the world, qualifying for the Accenture Match Play Championship next week. Johnson also qualified for the first two majors of the year, including his first trip to the Masters.

Johnson grew up in South Carolina, less than an hour away from Augusta National. Johnson has had a few offers to play the course, but each time turned them down.

"I just really wanted to be in the tournament before I went and played it," he said.

Mike Weir of Canada, desperate to play knowing the conditions would be tough and sloppy, had to settle for runner-up. It would have been the second time in four years that Weir played in the final group at Pebble Beach.

Johnson finished at 15-under 201, the first 54-hole winner on the PGA Tour since Phil Mickelson won the BellSouth Classic outside Atlanta in 2005. That tournament concluded on a Monday.

This was the first time a 54-hole winner played his final shot on a Saturday since Pebble Beach in 1999, when Payne Stewart birdied his final hole for a one-shot lead. The final round was washed out Sunday and the tournament shortened because of a storm system that stretched from the California coast to the shores of Japan.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen finished alone in third.

The cancellation was a blow to D.J. Trahan, who was in a three-way tie for sixth going into the last round. He would have needed to finish fifth alone to qualify for the Match Play, but instead will move up to No. 66 and need two players to withdraw.

While it goes down in the books as a 54-hole event, Johnson looked tough to beat all week. He opened with a 7-under 65 at Spyglass Hill to stay near the lead, then surged ahead with birdies on all the par 5s at Poppy Hills for a 67 to build a big lead. □



In this Feb. 8, 2009, file photo, Phoenix Suns coach Terry Porter, left, listens to assistant coach Alvin Gentry during an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Auburn Hills, Mich. The Suns fired Porter on Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. Gentry replaces Porter on an interim basis.

*Associated Press*

Asked if the coaching change was needed, Stoudemire said, "Only time can tell."

"I think Terry Porter definitely put a lot of hard work in here to try to get us on the right track," he said, "and I'm pretty sure Alvin's going to do the same."

Phoenix (28-23) lost five of eight going into the All-Star break and trails Utah by one game for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Gentry was the only holdover from D'Antoni's staff in Phoenix. His hiring as assistant coach in 2004 coincided with the arrival of Steve Nash and the subsequent ultra up-tempo offense that propelled the Suns to 54 wins or more in each of the past four seasons.

The decision to replace Porter came in a series of meetings between owner Robert Sarver and Kerr reviewing the entire basketball operation. □



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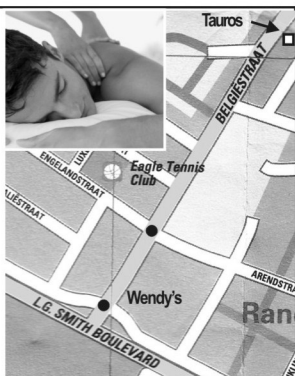
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week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week# 7+8- DiviLinks - Studio. R#4205,Poolview- US\$30,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613,PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week# 3 -DiviVillage -studio R#5508,Golfpoolv.-US\$8,000
week#2-17-OccidentaGrandl-1B Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	week#3+4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$23,000	week#9-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#211,Oceanfront- US\$20,000
week#2+3+4,-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	2xweek#1-17Occidental-Bdrsup. Oceanfro-US\$35,000Bothweeks
week# 5 + 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week# 6 -DiviPhoenix -1Bdr R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 1 -Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000	week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212,on the beach-US\$20,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a,Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 3 + 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr. R#2142,Oceanv-US\$13,000pw	week# 6+7,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541, Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr R#123,on the beach-US\$8,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 11,DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49,O.The B.-US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf 2bdr,Gardenview-US\$25,000	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101,Poolview-US\$10,000
week# 8 , La Cabana -2Bdr R#301E,OceanFr-US\$25,000	week#9 ,La Cabana B.R.C- stu. R#444B,OceanPool-US\$7,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 2+3, Renaissance-1Bdr. R#2327,POV- US\$13,000 p.w	week# 4+5,Costa Linda -2Br R#4019,OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr. R#346E,OceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500
week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week#10, DutchVillage -1 Bdr. R#28 ,on the beach-US\$9,000	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$12,000	2x week2-17,OccidentalGr-1Bdr. supreme,Oceanfr. - US\$35,000	week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202,Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#-7,Renaissance S.- 1Bdr R#2537,Poolocean-US\$15,000	week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week# 3+4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49,PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7,La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339,OceanFr-US\$8,000	week#8,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000	For rent: week 8, Renaissance- R#2536,1Br-OceanV-US\$1,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c,OceanVi-US\$9,000	week# 8&9,Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w.	week#10.DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121,Poolview-US\$8,000

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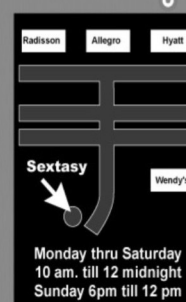
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# Proyecto socialista de Chávez toma empuje con triunfo

CARACAS (AP) - El triunfo alcanzado por el presidente Hugo Chávez en el referendo sobre la enmienda constitucional le otorga un nuevo impulso para avanzar en su proyecto socialista, pero ahora deberá transitar ese camino con una oposición que se constituyó en un bloque importante, pese a su revés.

Chávez, quien podrá aspirar a la reelección en el 2012, tendrá que lidiar en sus próximos cuatro años de mandato con problemas como la criminalidad, una alta inflación y las secuelas que enfrentará Venezuela por la caída de los precios del petróleo, que representa 94 de cada 100 dólares que ingresan al país por exportaciones.

El mandatario anunció la víspera que con la aprobación de la reelección sin límites se abrió la compuerta para el desarrollo de un "proyecto nacional de largo plazo", que se centrará en su modelo de corte socialista caracterizado por un poderoso Estado con influencia sobre todos los sectores.

Para el politólogo Ricardo Sucre, Chávez aprovechará el empuje de estos resultados electorales "para imponer esa doctrina socialista que ahora la llaman la teoría del buen gobierno", que no había podido

avanzar en toda su dimensión debido al revés que sufrió en el referendo constitucional del 2007.

Sucre explicó a la AP que aunque Chávez en los últimos dos años ha dado algunos pasos para avanzar su proceso socialista por la vía de las nacionalizaciones de empresas estratégicas, ahora se verá a un gobernante "apretando desde el punto de vista institucional para tener un control de país".

"Creo que Chávez va hacer todo para atornillarse (en el poder)", agregó.

Ladirectora del Partido Socialista Unidos de Venezuela, Vanessa Davies, fustigó duramente a los medios de comunicación a los que acusó de promover una "conspiración" contra la enmienda y aseguró que fueron "los grandes derrotados".

El influyente editor del diario local Tal Cual, Teodoro Petkoff, dijo que los resultados electorales ratificaron el "doble proceso" que se viene gestando desde hace tres años que se ha caracterizado por "el declinamiento sostenido pero no muy rápido" del respaldo electoral del presidente Chávez, y una subida "lenta, pero persistente" de la oposición.

"El chavismo viene descendiendo desde el 74%, que

fue el mejor momento de Hugo Chávez a lo largo de estos diez años cuando fue reelegido en el 2006, hasta ayer (domingo) cuando logró 54%", señaló Petkoff a la emisora local Unión Radio. De acuerdo al segundo boletín del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE) el referendo de la enmienda constitucional, que contemplaba como único punto la reelección ilimitada del presidente y demás cargos de elección popular, logró 54,8% de aceptación, que representaron 6,3 millones de votos.

Petkoff explicó que del lado de la oposición, que para los comicios presidenciales del 2006 obtuvo 36,9%, es decir 4,29 millones de votos, logró aglutinar 45,1%, que constituyen unos 5 millones de sufragios.

"Si yo fuera Chávez estaría sumamente preocupado (con los resultados)", dijo el editor al referir que el rechazo a la enmienda "ganó en todas las grandes capitales del país", incluyendolazonametropolitana y grandes estados como lo son Miranda, Zulia, Táchira, Mérida y Nueva Esparta.

"Seguimos en la lucha y estamos avanzando en los espacios. Podemos afirmar que como alternativa superamos los cinco millones de votos y que continuaremos creciendo",

dijo a la prensa Luis Ignacio Planas, presidente del partido opositor Copei Partido Popular, al anunciar que acudirá ante el

CNE para denunciar los "abusos y ventajismos cometidos por parte del gobierno" en la campaña. □



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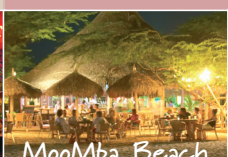
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